

- i) at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of plasmid pTET3 or pCRY4,
- ii) at least one DNA replication region obtained from one of the plasmids pTET3 or pCRY4, and
- iii) at least one region that encodes a protein for active antibiotic resistance.

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Cont

3. (Amended) The plasmid of claim 2, wherein said region that encodes a protein for antibiotic resistance comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of: a gene encoding a protein conferring tetracycline resistance, a gene encoding a protein conferring streptomycin and spectinomycin resistance and a gene conferring sulfamethoxazole resistance, wherein said genes are obtained from the antibiotic resistance region of plasmid pTET3, as set forth in Figure 5.

~~Please cancel claim 4, without prejudice.~~

Please amend claims 5 and 6 as follows.

5. (Amended) The plasmid of claim 2, wherein said plasmid comprises at least one DNA fragment selected from the group consisting of: a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of a vitamin, a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of a nucleotide and a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of an L-amino acid.

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6. (Amended) A plasmid capable of autonomous replication in bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium* containing:

- i) at least one DNA replication region obtained from one of the plasmids pGA1, pGA2, pTET3 or pCRY4, and
 - ii) at least one antibiotic resistance gene obtained from the antibiotic resistance region of plasmid pTET3 shown in Figure 5.
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~~Please cancel claims 7 and 8, without prejudice.~~

Please add the following new claims 13-32.

13. (New) The plasmid of claim 2, wherein said plasmid comprises a gene or a DNA fragment obtained from *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis* or *Streptomyces* and may multiply therein.

14. (New) The plasmid of claim 6, wherein said plasmid comprises at least one DNA fragment selected from the group consisting of: a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of a vitamin, a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of a nucleotide and a DNA fragment encoding a protein from the biosynthetic pathway of an L-amino acid.

15. (New) The plasmids of claim 2 or 6, wherein said plasmids are capable of autonomous replication in bacteria of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

16. (New) The plasmid of claim 6, wherein said plasmid consists of constituents of plasmid pTET3.

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17. (New) Plasmid vector pSELF3-1, which has a length of 7.0 kbp and the restriction map depicted in Figure 6.

18. (New) The plasmid of claim 6, wherein said plasmid comprises the DNA replication region of plasmid pGA1 and the tetA gene, imparting tetracycline resistance obtained from the antibiotic resistance region of plasmid pTET3.

19. (New) Plasmid vector pSELF1-1, which has a length of ~ 7.3 kbp and the restriction map depicted in Figure 7.

20. (New) An isolated plasmid, designated pTET3, wherein said plasmid is characterized by:

- i) a length of ~ 27.8 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 1,
- ii) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and
- iii) an antibiotic resistance region, shown in Figure 5, consisting of a tetA gene imparting tetracycline resistance, an aadA gene imparting streptomycin and

spectinomycin resistance and a *sulI* gene imparting sulfamethoxazole resistance.

21. (New) The plasmid pTET3 of claim 20, wherein said plasmid is compatible with plasmid pCRY4 characterized by:

- i) a length of ~ 48 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 2,
- ii) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4, and
- iii) deposited in *Corynebacterium glutamicum* under DSM number 5816.

22. (New) The plasmid pTET3 of claim 30, wherein said plasmid is compatible with one or more of the plasmids selected from the group consisting of pGA1, pGA3, pBL1 and pHM1519.

23. (New) An isolated plasmid, designated pCRY4, wherein said plasmid is characterized by:

- i) a length of ~ 48 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 2, and
- ii) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

24. (New) The isolated plasmid pCRY4 of claim 23, wherein said plasmid is compatible with plasmid pTET3 characterized by:

- i) a length of ~ 48 kbp and the restriction map shown in Figure 2,
- ii) a replication region comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- iii) an antibiotic resistance region, shown in Figure 5, consisting of a *tetA* gene imparting tetracycline resistance, an *aadA* gene imparting streptomycin and spectinomycin resistance and a *sulI* gene imparting sulfamethoxazole resistance, and
- iv) deposited in *Corynebacterium glutamicum* under DSM number 5816.

25. (New) The isolated plasmid pCRY4 of claim 16, wherein said plasmid is compatible with one or more of the plasmids selected from the group consisting of pGA1, pGA2, pGA3, pBL1 and pHM1519.

26. (New) An isolated DNA sequence encoding at least one protein selected from the group consisting of:

- i) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 having the function of a stabilization protein, and
- ii) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 having the function of a replication protein.

27. (New) An isolated DNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (New) An isolated DNA sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 having the function of a replication protein.

29. (New) An isolated DNA comprising SEQ ID NO:4.

30. (New) An isolated DNA sequence encoding at least one protein selected from the group consisting of:

- i) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, wherein said protein is a tetracycline resistance protein,
- ii) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, wherein said protein is a spectinomycin/streptomycin resistance protein, and
- iii) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10, wherein said protein is a tetracycline resistance repressor protein.

31. (New) An isolated DNA comprising SEQ ID NO:6.

32. (New) An isolated DNA comprising SEQ ID NO:9.